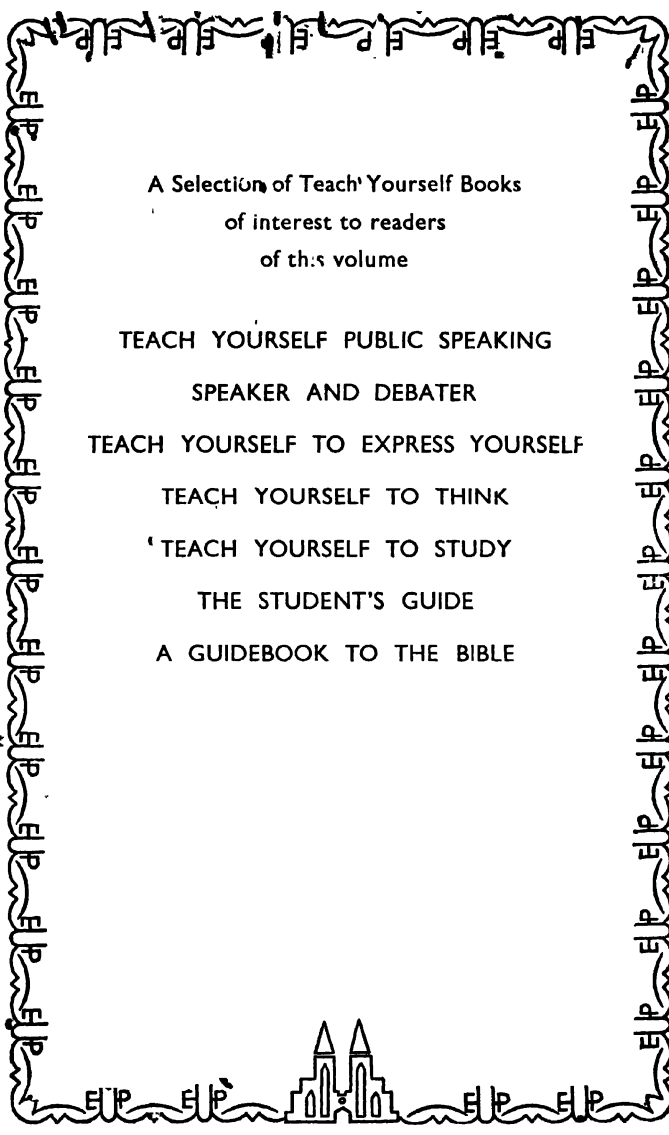


THE 'TEACH YOURSELF BOOKS'
EDITED BY LEONARD CUTTS

THE STANDARD ELOCUTIONIST



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TEACH YOURSELF PUBLIC SPEAKING
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THE STANDARD ELOCUTIONIST

A COMPLETE BOOK ON THE SCIENCE AND
ART OF EASY, CLEAR, EFFECTIVE AND
EXPRESSIVE SPEECH, COMPILED, WITH
REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS, FROM BELL'S
STANDARD ELOCUTIONIST



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PART ONE

TECHNIQUE

ELOCUTION may be defined as the science and art of easy, clear, effective and expressive speech.

It depends upon a combination of technique and interpretation. Interpretation, the end, is realisable only by mastery of means, i.e., of technique.

Perfect technique includes mastery of

- I. THE BREATH
- II. THE ORGANS OF ARTICULATION
- III. THE VOICE
- IV. PRONUNCIATION
- V. GESTURE

I. BREATHING

Inhalation. Speech consists of variously-modified emissions of breath. All utterance must, therefore, be preceded by inhalation.

The inspirations should be noiseless. If the chest is properly carried, with the passages to the lungs open, the air will enter silently and instantaneously. Noisy breathing is the result of (a) unhealthy condition of the tubes; (b) use of excessive muscular force; or (c) failure to open the passages. The last is the commonest fault: anxiety or bad habit causing rigidity of the throat muscles, which impedes the free entry of breath.

The chest may, for the sake of clearness, be considered as consisting of two parts: upper and lower. The upper chest consists of the comparatively fixed ribs topped by the collar-bones. The lower chest is walled by the freer ribs, which, being hinged only at the back, are comparatively free to move upwards and outwards. The floor of the chest is the diaphragm, the large muscle which separates the lungs from the digestive organs. In relaxation the diaphragm takes the shape of a somewhat flattened dome. In inhalation it flattens, thus increasing the cubic capacity of the chest in a downward direction.

There are three recognised types of breathing:

Clavicular,
Abdominal,
Lateral or Intercostal.

Clavicular, popularly known as collar-bone breathing. At its worst it is accompanied by raising of the shoulders—a serious fault. This type illogically attends to the